



## North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA)

### About the NC HIEA

A Health Information Exchange (HIE) is a secure electronic network that gives authorized health care providers the ability to access and share health-related information across an information highway. It exists to improve health care quality, enhance patient safety, improve health outcomes, and reduce overall health care costs by enabling health information to be available securely whenever doctors, nurses and specialists need it.

The North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA) was created in a 2015 state law that directed the North Carolina Department of Information Technology's (DIT) Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC), to move operations and management of the existing NC HIE from Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) to the state. [NCSL 2015-241 Section 12A.5, as amended by NCSL 2015-264]

Additionally, the law requires that as of February 1, 2018, all Medicaid providers must be connect and submit data to the state-operated health information exchange, now called NC HealthConnex, in order to continue to receive payments for Medicaid services provided. By June 1, 2018, all other entities that receive state funds for the provision of health services, including local management entities/managed care organizations, also must be connected.

Since March 2016 the NC HIEA staff have been working with providers previously connected to the health information exchange operated by CCNC to sign new contracts and establish new data connections and is now signing up new participants.

### Why is the HIE - NC HealthConnex - Important?

North Carolina's state-operated HIE, now



**called NC HealthConnex, connects providers to a secure information network that will help doctors, hospitals and other health care providers deliver the best possible care for patients.**

This electronic conversation enables providers to see their patients' most up-to-date health information including medications, lab results, allergies, image reports, conditions, diagnoses, and vaccinations. As an example, now when a patient is seen by an ER physician while on vacation, that physician may only be able to rely on the patient's statement of medications, allergies, etc. With an HIE connection, the ER physician is able to view that patient's medical record in the system and avoid unnecessary tests or medications.

Enhanced analytics will offer providers and policymakers unprecedented insights into health care best practices and outcomes as well as assist the state in achieving better budget stability and predictability for the future of Medicaid.

As payers increasingly move to alternative payment arrangements that focus on value, the NC HealthConnex gives health care providers the tools necessary to improve care coordination and ensure the best care at the best price.

### NC HealthConnex enables participating organizations to:



**View Data and Receive Clinical Notifications on:**  
Inpatient Admission  
Inpatient Discharge  
Patient Admission to ER  
Final Laboratory Result  
Final Microbiology Result  
Final Radiology Report



**Current data elements available:**  
Allergies  
Encounters  
Immunizations  
Medications  
Problems  
Procedures  
Results



**Tools:**  
Direct Secure Messaging (HISP)  
Provider Directory



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## Leadership & Partners



**Darryl Meeks**  
NC HIEA Executive Director

NC HIEA Executive Director Darryl Meeks oversees all strategic and business operations of the state-operated health information exchange, now called NC HealthConnex, that will have lasting impact on improving North Carolinians' health. Previously, he served as the Director of Health Information Technology for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) where he oversaw programs such as Meaningful Use, the Medicaid Incentive Payment System, health care technology innovation, North Carolina's Health IT plan, and patient care systems, among others.

### Our Partners:

**SAS Institute** - The NC HIEA's technical partner is SAS Institute. Through innovative analytics, business intelligence and data management software and services, SAS helps customers at more than 80,000 sites make better decisions faster. SAS also operates the NC HIEA Technical Support Help Desk.

**Orion Health** - The NC HIEA's HIE software is provided by Orion Health. Founded in 1993 Orion Health is a leading global, independently owned software organization. With an inherent ability to interconnect a wide variety of healthcare information systems, Orion Health has become the world's leading provider of Health Information Exchange (HIE) and healthcare integration solutions.

**DirectTrust** - DirectTrust is a collaborative non-profit association of 142 health IT and health care provider organizations to support secure, interoperable health information exchange via the Direct message protocols. DirectTrust has created a "trust framework" that extends use of Direct exchange to over 59,000 health care organizations and 1,273,279 Direct addresses/accounts. This trust framework supports both provider-to-provider Direct exchange and bi-directional exchange between consumers/patients and their providers.

### NC HIEA Advisory Board Members

(appointed by the N.C. General Assembly)

**Jason Cagle, Sr. Systems Architect**  
Alexander Youth Network

**Dr. Allen Daugird, President & Chief Value Officer**  
UNC Physicians

**Dr. Jeffrey M. Ferranti (Chairman), Chief Information Officer**  
Duke Medicine

**Thomas N. Friedman, Director of Policy, Planning and Analysis**  
N.C. State Health Plan

**Ruth Glaser, President**  
Pender Memorial Hospital

**Russell T. Henderson, Consulting Systems Engineer**  
Cisco

**Benjamin Money, President & CEO**  
NC Community Health Care Association

**Dr. William G. Way, Director of Diagnostic Imaging Radiologist**  
Wake Radiology

Ex-Officio Members:

**Secretary and State CIO**  
North Carolina Department of Information Technology

**Secretary**  
North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services

**Deputy State CIO and Chief Data Officer**  
North Carolina Department of Information Technology



Learn more at [nchealthconnex.gov](http://nchealthconnex.gov)